

From the Army Acquisition Executive

Delivering Better Products and Capabilities to our Soldiers Faster



The Army has taken significant steps in recent years to improve and institutionalize the process of developing, procuring and sustaining our weapon systems and equipment. All efforts are focused on delivering better products and capabilities to our Soldiers faster. At our Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) in Huntsville, AL, for example, the men and women of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile LCMC work directly with combatant commanders and Soldiers

in the field to maintain readiness rates above Army average for our fleet of more than 4,000 manned and unmanned aerial vehicles. Because of work at the Communications-Electronics LCMC in Fort Monmouth, NJ, our Soldiers and their commanders have a common operating picture of the battlespace updated automatically because of a network package known as the Mounted Battle Command on the Move that fits in their Humvees, Bradleys and Strykers. At the TACOM LCMC in Warren, MI, Add-on-Armor (AoA) kits were developed in response to an urgent need to combat improvised explosive devices (IEDs), roadside car bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

In addition to these efforts, the Army has adopted a process to view acquisition in its entirety from concept to disposal. I have termed this the "Big A(cquisition), Little a(cquisition)" one-process, one-team approach to acquisition. For decades, we viewed acquisition as a small "a" — acquire, develop, contract, test, produce and field. Now, the acquisition process starts when the Soldier says "I want," and ends when the Soldier says "I have."

It is clear that we have the world's best Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce to keep our Army the most capable land force on Earth. Let me provide a few examples of our success:

- Our Rapid Equipping Force and Rapid Fielding Initiative have substantially changed the normal acquisition process by enabling commanders and Soldiers to purchase and field commercial-off-the-shelf technologies to respond as rapidly as possible to changing operational environments.
- Through our acquisition and logistics processes, we have increased or improved equipment to meet operational needs in Afghanistan and Iraq as follows:

- ♦ Increased the fielding of body armor to Soldiers in the field from 10 percent in September 2003 to 100 percent by January 2006.
- ♦ Boosted the number of Up-Armored Humvees in theater from 500 in September 2003 to 11,000 as of January 2006.
- ♦ Augmented all theater aircraft with basic Aircraft Survivability Equipment as of January 2005.
- ♦ Equipped more than 37,000 wheeled vehicles with AoA kits as of January 2006.
- ♦ Revived a program for Armored Security Vehicles in 2005 and deployed 194 of them as of January 2006.
- ♦ Issued to each Soldier a new chitosan blood-clotting bandage and a new one-handed tourniquet.
- ♦ Created an Army IED Task Force in October 2003 to assist in coordinating and synchronizing ongoing efforts to mitigate the threat of IEDs. In 2004, the Army led a Joint IED Defeat Integrated Process Team to pull together all counter-IED efforts within DOD.

- Delivered Strykers to the Stryker Brigade Combat Team just 18 months after the Army's contract go-ahead. In Iraq, Strykers continue to maintain a superb operational ready rate. More than 5 million miles have been driven by the first two deployed Stryker brigades.
- The Army's Future Combat Systems, the concurrent procurement of 18 systems in tandem, is on cost, on schedule and performing to plan. While unprecedented oversight confirms program management success, an extensive testing plan will validate performance and reduce development risk.

My office manages 22 percent of the Army's current monies, roughly \$44 billion. Do you know how much it costs to manage and train the workforce that executes 22 percent of the Army's Total Obligation Authority? The answer is \$208 million or 0.5 percent. This, in itself, is exceptional. It is outstanding. In my humble opinion, we have the best workforce in DOD and perhaps the federal government.

Our challenge in the future is to continue to manage programs effectively and efficiently so we have the right product, in the right place, at the right time. Our Soldiers and their commanders depend on us. HOOAH!

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